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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE

LIVING CONDITIONS IN PAKISTAN, 1953

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Q U E T T A

Population: The population of Baluchistan Province is about 1,500,000 people. The town of Quetta, which is the capital of Baluchistan, varies in population from 60,000 in winter to 80,000 in summer, which fact indicates that Quetta is somewhat of a summer resort. There are very few Americans in Quetta and Baluchistan. At this writing there is one other American couple in Quetta. The man is a student at the Military College which is located there. There are a number of British stationed there with the Pakistan Army.

Climate: The climate in Quetta is generally good and healthy. The normal annual rainfall in this area is about 7 inches. Most of the rain comes in February and July. Normally there is some snow in January, February, and March in the mountain area and some in Quetta, however, it does not stay on the ground in Quetta but a few days at a time and is not a heavy covering. The mid-day temperature from May to September is very hot. The nights are cool and very nice. From September to December is a gradual cooling off of both days and nights with fires in the evenings from October onward through the winter months. Of course, as the winter season advances more fire is needed until about April. The humidity is high most of the time. Quetta is located in a valley almost surrounded by mountains. The altitude is 5500 feet in Quetta. Some of the nearby mountains are 11,000 feet. There are periods of high winds and dust storms also, there have been one or two small earthquake tremors recently but no apparent damage was done.

Type of Clothing: The general year 'round type of clothing that one would wear in Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma would work nicely here. Formal clothing will be needed. The ladies' winter formals here are mostly long sleeved and designed for warmth as well as style. This is necessary as most heating arrangements are poor and the host's house is usually cold. No ready-made clothing is available here but plenty of imported materials are available (though costly) and the local tailors can make most any kind of garment needed. The prices of clothing made here are very high. It is suggested that one bring enough clothing and clothing material to last for their assignment.

Housing: There is much variation in housing in Quetta and not very many houses of any kind are readily available. During the summer months many people come to Quetta from other provinces to escape the heat that exists in other places during the summer months. Housing will be provided by the Foreign Operations Administration although a short stay in a hotel can be expected. Basic furniture, drapes, refrigerator, kerosene stove, and air conditioner will be provided by FOA. They should bring plenty of bedding.





Housing con'd: At times there are no sheets and pillow cases available locally, and when they are the sheets cost over \$7.00 each. (Prices quoted may vary.) Towels, dish towels (not fancy) and a short wave radio should also be brought - Radios are available locally but very expensive.

Other Electrical Equipment: Electricity in Quetta is 220 volts alternating current 50 cycles; 110 volt 60 cycle American equipment will work with a transformer. The following electrical equipment is very useful and workable with a 2000 watt transformer; washing machine, iron, electric oven, refrigerator, lamps, radio, record player, waffle iron. Be sure to bring transformers large enough to meet your needs.

Schools: There are grammar schools and Catholic schools for both boys and girls. They use the English Standard system of education which is quite different from the American system. There are no boarding schools for American children in Pakistan. Children of the Foreign Operations Administration are using books from their home state and are attending a private school here that is run by an army officer's wife. This school could be abolished on rather short notice should the officer be transferred or discharged. With regard to the children of the American FOA man up there; one is starting her third year of High School and the other is starting his 7th grade, both have completed one year of work here. Should one wish to follow this procedure they should bring the books complete with all work books and everything needed for each grade and have an understanding with the school officials at their home that the work that is done over here will be accepted when they return home. For young children the Calvert System might be desirable. It is not felt that the local schools will span the work comparable to American schools as they are entirely different.

Sports: Tennis, swimming and the English type sports are available. No fishing but some hunting (Bird) is available.

Entertainment: The only public entertainment available is the movies -- one theatre showing mostly American-made pictures -- there are numerous teas and dinners.

Availability of Foods: Normally there is a good supply of fresh fruits and vegetables available. They are expensive and we do not believe they have the food value that American products have. A poor quality of mutton, beef and poultry is available with fish that is shipped in from the coast. No pork is produced in Pakistan and pork that is imported is very expensive. Danish canned ham is a little over \$3.00 per pound. Flour is of a poor quality and expensive. Sugar is of poor quality and about 30¢ per pound, American coffee is over \$3.00 per pound, milk and butter are questionable products, suggest one bring canned and dried milk and all canned fruits and vegetables are three to four times as high as they are in the states. (Prices quoted may vary.)





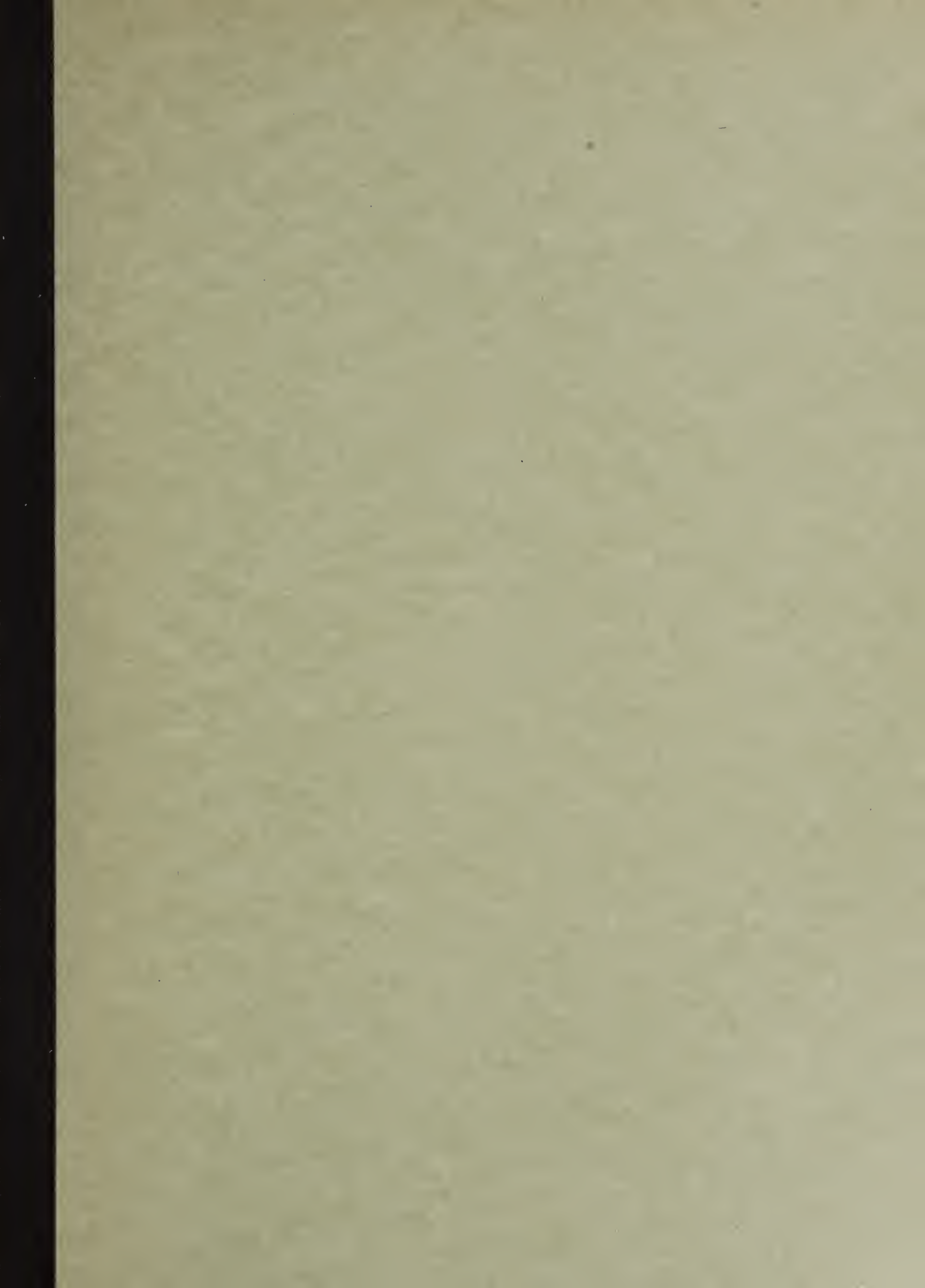
Medicine & Hospitals: There are dentists of questionable ability available. There are no optometrists available, there are several general practitioners of good ability available. There are two civilian hospitals and the Pakistan Army has additional ones. Most hospitals are poorly equipped and poorly staffed. A fair supply of American and English drugs are available.

Automobiles: An automobile is very helpful about town. The Chevrolet 4 door is the most popular make. Parts and tires are scarce and expensive. There are Buicks, Pontiacs, and Oldsmobiles here.

Communications: There is a telephone service but not very many people outside of Government have them. Mail freight and out of town transportation is by train. There are no air communications. There is no city bus service, but there is taxi and tonga (horse drawn carriages) service.

Sanitary Conditions: Community sanitation is above that of Karachi but still below American standards.







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